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Laydon Technology, Inc.
1005 Pinewood Court
Iron Mountain, MI 49801-4464

January 12, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am happy that a settlement has been reached with Microsoft. The terms of the agreement are fair and reasonable. In addition, the required changes in Microsoft's business practices will restore fair competition and prevent future antitrust violations.

The settlement requires a number of specific changes. For example, Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate against computer makers who ship software that competes with anything in its Windows operating system. Also, Microsoft has agreed to license its Windows operating system products to the 20 largest computer makers on identical terms and conditions, including price. In addition, Microsoft has agreed to document and disclose for use by its competitors various interfaces that are internal to Windows' operating system products - a first in an antitrust settlement. These changes along with the others in the settlement will result in a competitive balance in the technology sector.

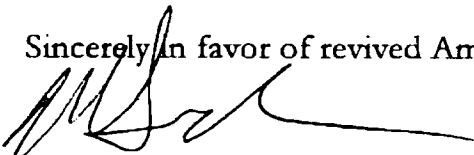
This settlement is in the best interest of the public and the economy. The current recession has had a devastating effect on state budgets and the Federal budget, and it is important that the IT industry be allowed to concentrate on business as soon as possible. Thank you.

I am directly involved in the development of software solutions for sale to small and medium size companies. I am a survivor having been involved in this business since 1981. One thing that has always been a problem in the industry is incompatibility. When Microsoft began to "monopolize" the industry it became so much easier to develop software for microcomputers

since we knew what was on the users machine and how it reacted. When I began developing for the internet I found, and still find, the same problems. Netscape supports certain things that MS Internet Explorer doesn't and vice-versa. Since I am a small business trying to survive, writing similar code in duplicate to support both browsers has become almost unbearable. Finally, through no fault of Microsoft's, I had to choose. I chose to support Microsoft and place a note on my web site that linked to Microsoft so users could download Internet Explorer. The thing is that **Microsoft has a better product in Windows and Internet Explorer** and forcing users to go through great pains to get the better product is not good for American business.

Although I am happy Microsoft has reached an agreement with you, I am VERY DISAPPOINTED, that it has come to this. Forcing competitive products on the industry and users just because others have not been able to compete on their own is a sin. **I am a conservative Republican and am very disappointed in my party for not making this issue "go away" after the election.**

Sincerely in favor of revived American innovation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Laydon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Laydon
President